



Secrets and Sensibilities

Regina Scott

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When art instructor Hannah Alexander agrees to accompany four of her students on a country house visit before Easter, she never dreams of entering into a dalliance with the owner David Tenant, the handsome new Earl of Brentfield. But one moment in his company and she's in danger of losing her heart. There are secrets aplenty at Brentfield, enough to challenge any lady's sensibilities, even those of Hannah's protégé, Lady Emily Southwell. As events unfold at Brentfield, Hannah quickly learns that loving David comes at a price, to her future plans of being a portrait painter, to her position as a teacher, and to her very life.

This clean romance with a touch of romantic suspense was previously published by Zebra as A Dangerous Dalliance.

Secrets and Sensibilities Details

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Author : Regina Scott

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From Reader Review Secrets and Sensibilities for online ebook

Mela says

Absolutely **the best thing in this book was David, a beta hero**. I give him 4 stars, furthermore, if someone placed him in a better story he could deserve even 5 stars.

The other characters, especially Hannah and the girls and the mystery was for 3 stars.

The rest (the style of writing, an atmosphere etc.) was only ok (2 stars).

So, to me, it was somewhere between 2/3 stars but David rounds it up.

Mara says

3.5 stars for my first novel by Regina Scott. This is the first book in the Lady Emily Capers series. Hannah Alexander is an art teacher at the Barnsley School for Young Ladies. She's been assigned to be the chaperone for a group of 4 young ladies who will be visiting the recently widowed Lady Brentfield (one of the young ladies is her niece) over the Easter holidays. Upon arrival Miss Alexander and her charges meet the new owner of the manor, David Tenant, the new Earl of Brentfield, not long arrived from Boston. There are paintings and other works of art missing or moved in the huge manor. Because of her knowledge of art David enlists Hannah to help him identify what's missing. After a few days in David's company Hannah wonders if it's possible to fall in love so quickly and if it's even possible for her to be with David since she's a teacher and a portrait painter.

This book was a change of pace from what I'd been reading, and I do like Regency novels. I enjoyed David's character because he was from Boston and was still learning about how to be a Lord, like the different types of bowing depending on the person's station. He didn't care about people's stations and lording his position over others.

Hannah goes from thinking of herself as a never-to-marry spinster and lowly portrait painter to gaining courage to stand up to the overbearing Lady Brentfield.

Even the four young ladies all had some growth to their characters in the story. Even Priscilla (Lady Brentfield's niece) was less selfish by the end of the story. I liked how they all helped Miss Alexander get dressed up for David--loaning her a dress and jewelry, and helping her fix her hair.

This is a clean romance with some mystery/suspense.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I liked this one. I'd say this was a fun mystery, but it was pretty obvious who the bad guy was. It was still fun though and I liked the characters.

It also ends like there may be a companion novel, does anyone know?

Content: Clean.

****Update:** Republished 2013 under Secrets and Sensibilities (Regency Romance)

Flavia (OddCloud) says

Rating: 2.5

It was an enjoyable read, however I found it bland. The so called mystery was not much of a mystery at all, the characters pretty "thin" developed and the plot was almost not there. But, although I would've liked to see more passion between the leads, and perhaps more color in the other characters, I liked the book. The writing was decent and easy to follow.

This book was like a cup of cheap (in lack of a better word) tea: comforting, yet not quite awakening your taste buds :)

Andree says

So, I was into this while I was reading it, but it also felt very... simplistic. I mean, don't get me wrong, there are secret passageways in a country estate, so obviously I'm totally there for that. This is another case of the villain being so obvious that you have to wonder why anyone puts up with the shenanigans that transpire though. David in particular could have used a good shake. Particularly in the context of him (as the new heir to an Earldom) refusing to acknowledge the disproportionate consequence issue in terms of his and Hannah's (an art teacher) relative standing in society. I mean, the fact that the novel is clean helps a bit, and some of it is mitigated by him essentially being cast as semi-clueless American who does not understand the British class system. It's not quite good enough though, because his friend sits him down and explains the realities to him point blank, as does Hannah.

Also, not sure why these are called the "Lady Emily" books. She's something of a minor character, and I wouldn't say she makes any huge contributions to any 'solving' of the mystery. But that's a small quibble.

I mean, fun when I was reading it, but I forgot about it entirely, until I double checked the books I'd read on my kobo in the past week.

Carol says

Nice read

Enjoy the book. It had romance and very humanlike characters who can come through if circumstances require it. Very nice plot with a surprise ending as to who did it.

Lynda Edwards says

This is the first book in the Lady Emily Capers, and as I find Regina Scott's writing very enjoyable, I am thrilled to begin what is a new series to me.

Hannah is an art teacher acting as a chaperone to several students as they visit one of their aunts, the widowed Lady Brentfield. One of the best parts about her character is the selfless attitude she expresses throughout, but I really enjoyed her growth through the novel, from quiet, insecure spinster, to confident woman who finally knows her own mind, abilities, and value.

David is an unusual Regency hero—his American heritage and upbringing give him a humorous bent at times and call attention to some of the ridiculous rules of the period at others. The reader gets the opportunity to learn some of the conventions along with him, giving us more historical grounding and understanding of some of the customs to which ladies and gentlemen adhered. And when it seems like nonsense to him, he is willing to throw all accepted practice to the wind, giving him a rakish quality without making him into a caricature of either an English gentleman or a bumbling American.

Too often within historical fiction, it feels as if a plot could take place in any time period. But in this novel the words, phrasing, mannerisms and situations locate us firmly in the Regency era. Discussions about entails, proper bowing based on social station, being "bored to flinders," and "desultory" conversations are only a few examples of how she skillfully immerses us in the setting without resorting to lecturing the reader.

With wonderful characters and humor, this delightful Regency romantic mystery is sure to please fans of the genre. I would highly recommend it to those who are looking for a fun read with a sweet romance and a few luscious kisses.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author in exchange for this honest review. All of the opinions expressed are my own.

Eileen says

Just okay...not compelling in the least.

This was an okay read. It didn't hold my interest but I like to finish stories. I would say this is a light romance. I found the main couple characters lacking passion. The plot was so evident, the mystery was not a mystery.

A. R. says

While this story had some intrigue and romance, overall I was left wanting.

It had real possibilities. Missing works of art, suspected murder, and a budding romance between people of

differing stations in life. The premise worked, but the story just didn't deliver.

Secrets and Sensibilities had one-dimensional characters, a Yank who was supposed to be savvy, but came across as a stereotypical Yank, and evil Lady who had no likable characteristics, and the school marm who was beautiful and underappreciated. And...it was written with a little too much contemporary flair. I don't doubt that it takes real skill to write a regency novel, but throwing in a few archaic words and the right kind of clothing does not make for compelling regency.

And I don't like to mention editing errors, but this book was riddled with them - sometimes more than one on a page. There were missing words or additional words (usually articles) and confused pronouns. It was very distracting.

So, while the essence of the story was good, I will probably not return to this author.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

Originally read as A Dangerous Dalliance. I enjoyed this one, I think I'd like it even more a second time around, especially knowing there is a sequel now. A fun regency with a light mystery. I look forward to reading it again.

Content: Clean

Leslie says

This is a cute Regency 'mystery' where a teacher accompanies four students to a house party as a chaperone; meets the new Duke - an American - and falls in love.

Heather says

I wanted to like this book, but it was flat and in need good a good editor. The characters and plot were thin and not particularly engaging. Considering the title, I expected a Regency romance, but none of the characters behaved in the manner I anticipated so I was disappointed. It was clean, but not satisfying enough for me to seek out this author again.

Kristina says

This book was enjoyable, easy to read and filled with many humorous lines, especially in the first half. The story was clean and combined both romance and mystery.

Hannah Alexander was a self taught artist. She taught art at a ladies college but her dream was to paint for a living. She was ordered by the headmistress of the college to chaperone one of the student's, Priscilla Tate, together with a few of her friends, over the Easter holidays at the home of Priscilla's aunt, Lady Brentfield. Her aunt who was recently widowed, was looking forward to the girls' company over Easter and wished to help prepare them for their first Season.

David Tennant, (the Earl of Brentford) was an American from Boston. He was the nearest living male relative to the deceased former Earl. Upon his arrival in England to claim his inheritance, the proud widow, Lady Brentfield tried to capture his attention but to no avail. Realizing there was no hope for herself, she tried flaunting her niece Priscilla in front of David hoping to compromise him into marrying the young girl. David, however was instantly smitten by the chaperone, Miss Alexander and made it obvious from the beginning, that he only had eyes for Hannah. I really liked David's hard working, easy going and unpretentious manner. David's upbringing in Boston was vastly different from Lady Brentfield's. He was not sure he was cut out to be an Earl. He cared about the estate and the people running it, but he did not like Lady Brentfield's high expectations of what an Earl should be like. Quoting from the novel, in Boston:

" A man was judged on his intelligence, his character, and his skills. David had never been found wanting in any area. Yet here, just because of a thin and distant bloodline, he was expected to behave as if he had been elevated to the status of demigod. It was downright blasphemous, and he refused to do it".

Even though the romance between the Earl and Hannah happened in a short space of time, it was sweet. I liked David's forward and honest manner. Hannah, although a little shy at first, did not hesitate to reveal her feelings for him when his life was in danger. I also liked the way the young girls formed a special friendship with each other, as well as with Hannah and David by the end of the book. I liked this author's writing style and I will be reading the next book in the "Lady Emily Capers" series in the near future.

Melissa says

Clean fun regency romance. What a fun story. I liked it from the beginning to the end. Good characters and an interesting story. It was a fun well paced book with a good plot. The whole series looks fun to read. I like Mrs Scotts writing style and will be reading more of her books.

Nellie says

Sweet romance.

This story was clean, and fun. I will enjoy the rest of the series. I liked these characters. Glad to find another clean author.
